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In Letter People Land there is a small girl.
Her name is Olive.
Olive has her own business.
It is a very unusual business.
This is how it started.

Olive is a small girl who wants to do everything
her big sister Omni does.
Omni plays a drum in the high school marching band.
The band plays in the Ogdenville contest.
Everyone comes to watch them.
The band wins a prize.
Olive plays a drum in the kindergarten rhythm band.
“No one comes to watch us,” says Olive.
“We never win a prize.”
“You are too small,” says Omni.
“Wait until you are older.”



Omni goes to school in a big building.
Olive goes to school in a small trailer.
“I want to be in a real school building,” says Olive.
“You are too small.
Wait until you are older,” says Omni.
“I am not too small,” says Olive.
“I will go see Miss O.
She always finds the happy side of everything.
Miss O is an optimist.
She will help me.”



Olive finds Miss O.

"I want to be in the big school building," Olive says.

"There is not enough money to build a kindergarten room onto the big school building," explains Miss O.

"You helped Omni and her friends raise money to buy new band instruments," says Olive.

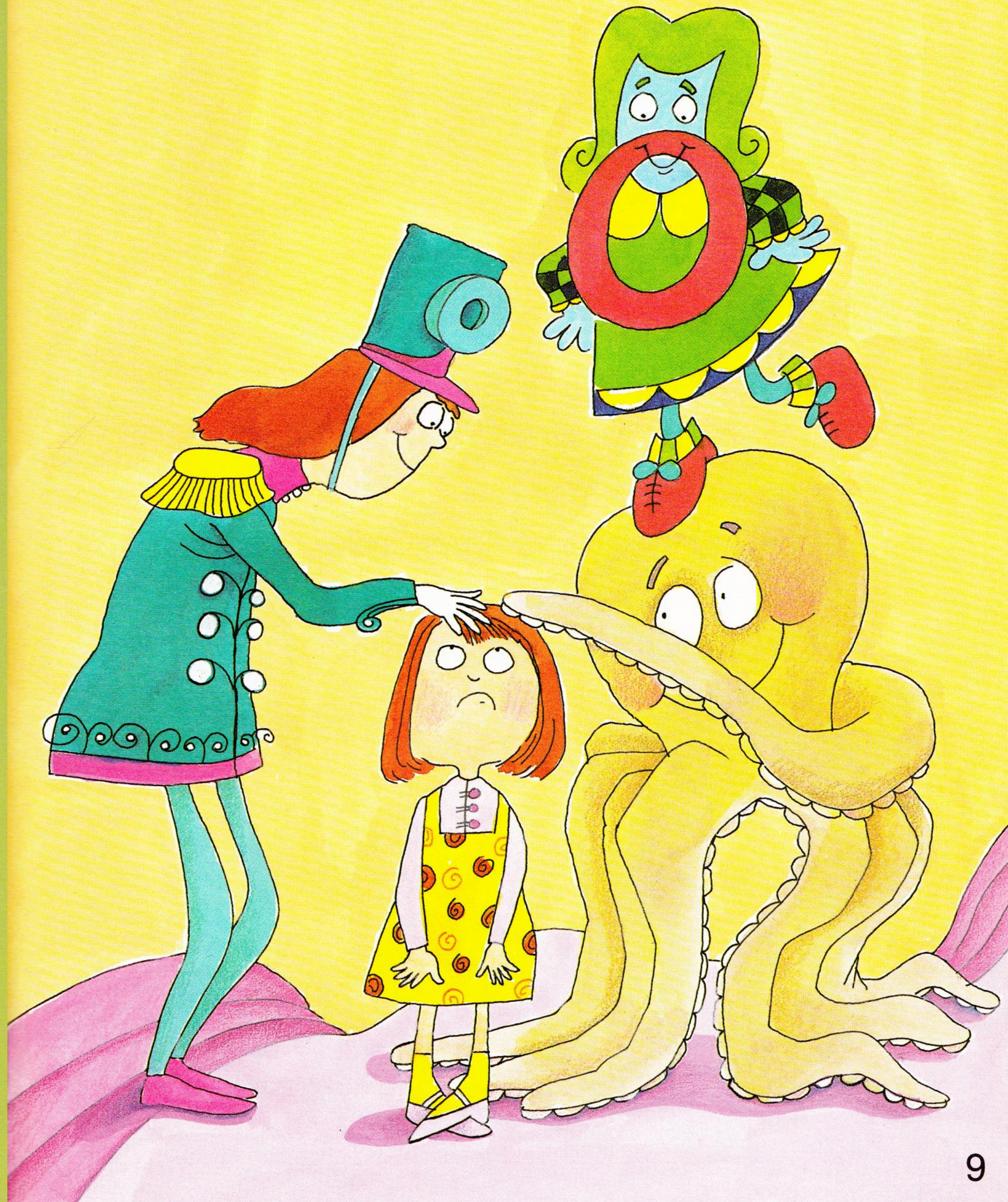
"Will you help my friends and me raise money for a kindergarten room?"

Please don't say I am too small."

"Olive, I will be happy to help you," says Miss O.



Miss O asks many people to help raise money.
“The high school marching band will give a concert,”
says Omni.
“May I play in the band?” asks Olive.
“You are too small,” says Omni.
“Wait until you are older.”
“I will sell omelets,” says Ollie Octopus.
“May I sell omelets with you?” asks Olive.
“You are too small,” says Ollie Octopus.
“Wait until you are older.”



"No one will let me help," says Olive.

"Maybe you can wash cars," suggests Oppie Ostrich.

"Maybe I can wash your feathers," says Olive.

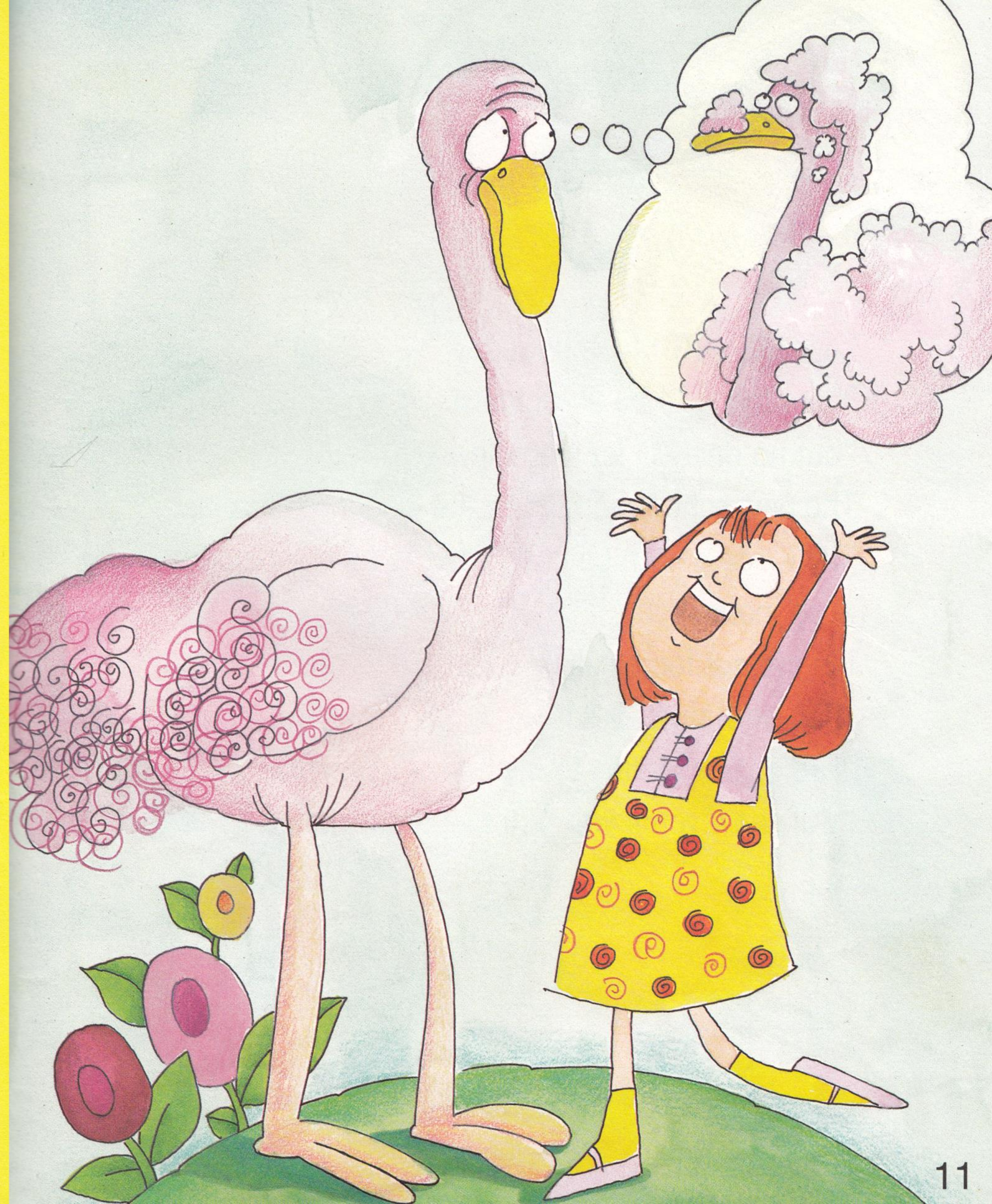
"Oh, no! Not my feathers!" says Oppie Ostrich.

"You are too small."

Before Olive can answer, Oppie Ostrich is gone.

"Wow!" says Olive,

"Oppie Ostrich runs very fast."



Miss O sees Olive is unhappy.

"I am trying to be an optimist," says Olive,
"but no one will let me help.

The new schoolroom is for the kindergarten class.
The kindergarten children want to help
raise money too.

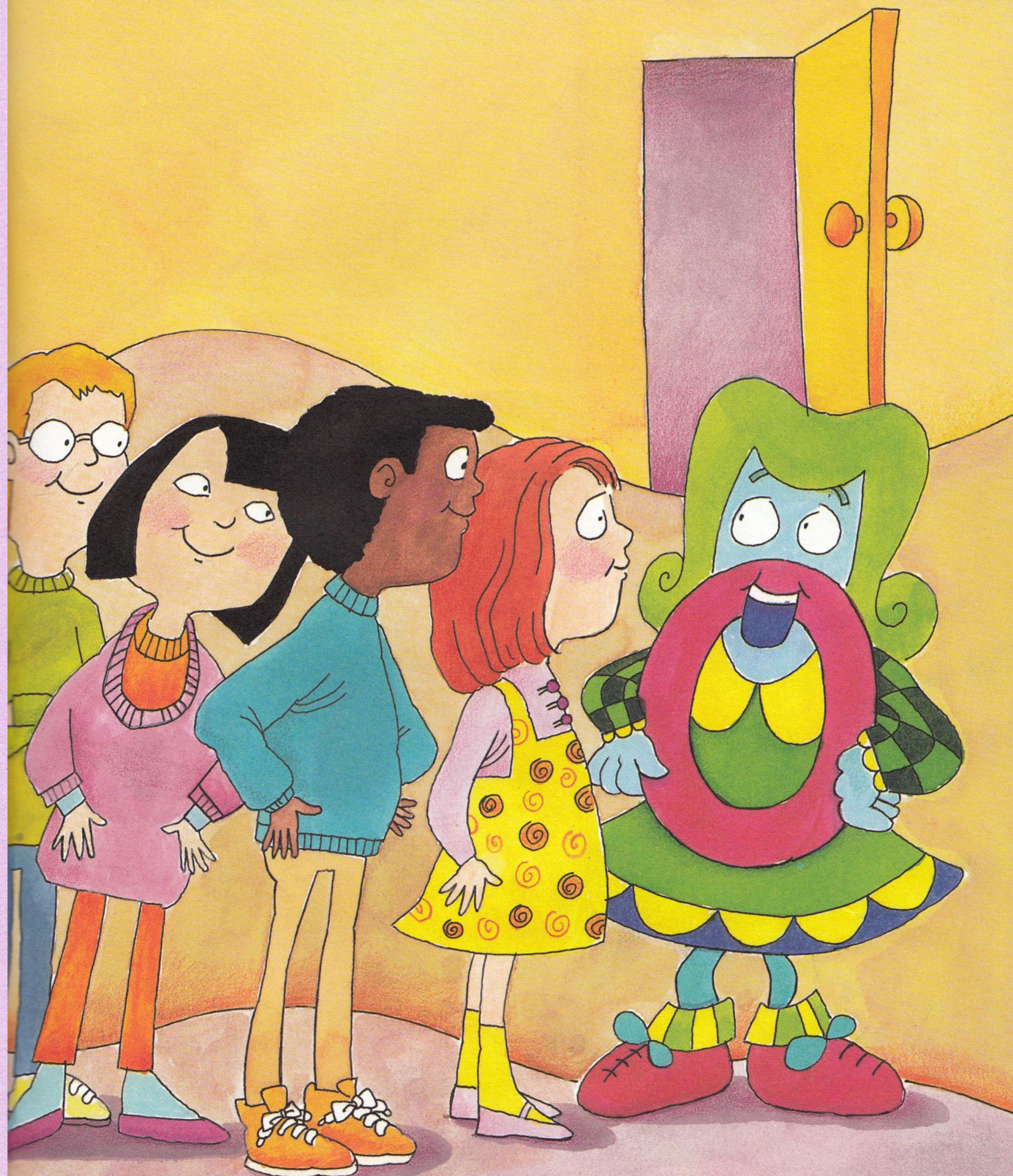
We are not too small."

"I agree," says Miss O.

"Bring your friends to my house tomorrow.
I will show you a way you can raise money."



The kindergarten class goes to see Miss O.
“I wrote a play you can perform
in the outdoor stadium,” says Miss O.
“You can sell tickets to raise money.
There is a part in the play for each of you.”
“How can we learn our parts?” ask the children.
“We cannot read.
How will the people hear us in an outdoor stadium?
Our voices are not loud.”
“Remember,” says Miss O, “I am an optimist.
An optimist finds ways to solve problems.”



Miss O gives each child a tape recorder and a microphone.

"I have taped each part in the play," says Miss O.

"You can listen and learn your parts."

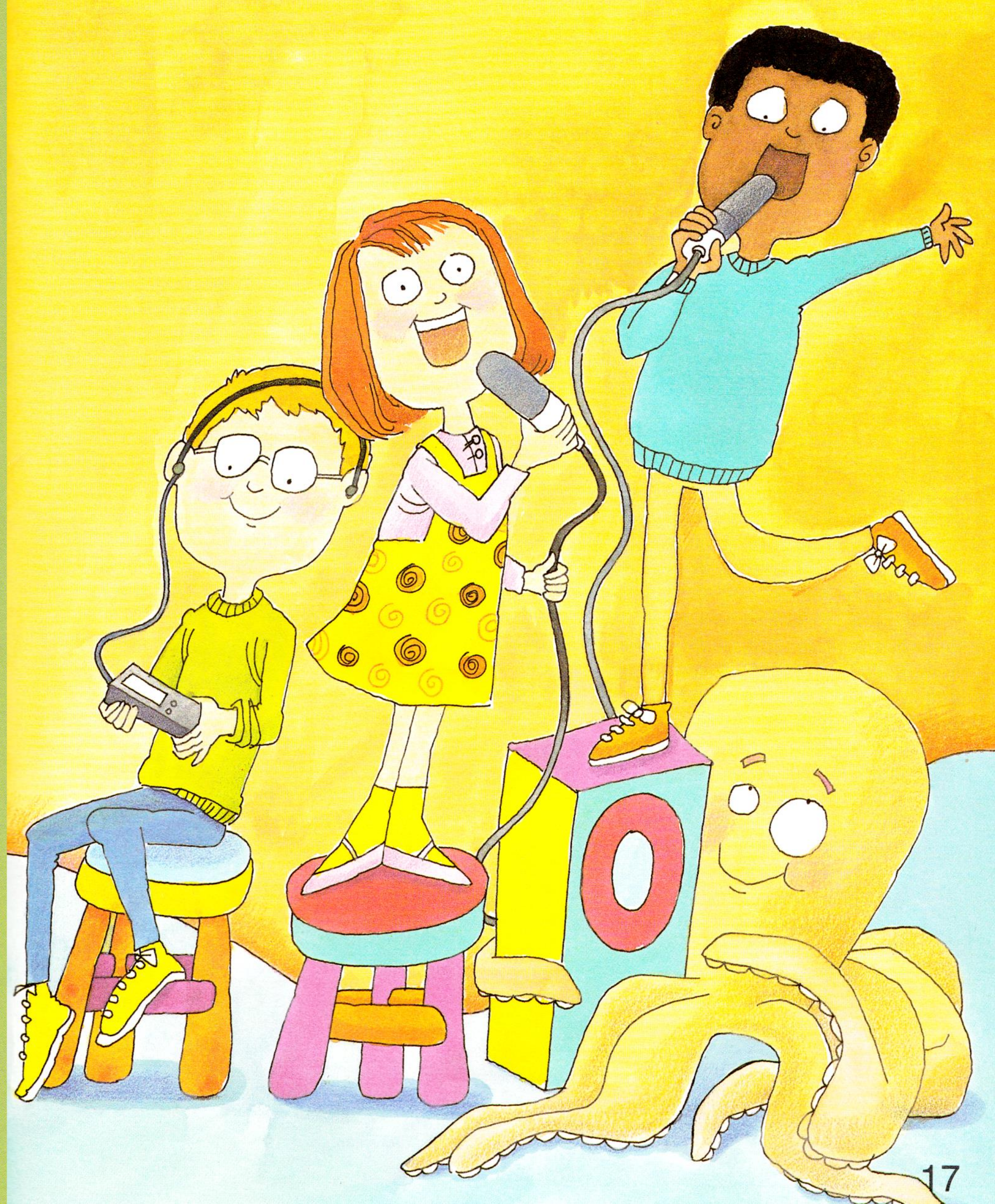
"It will not matter if we cannot read," says Olive.

"You can each talk into a microphone," says Miss O.

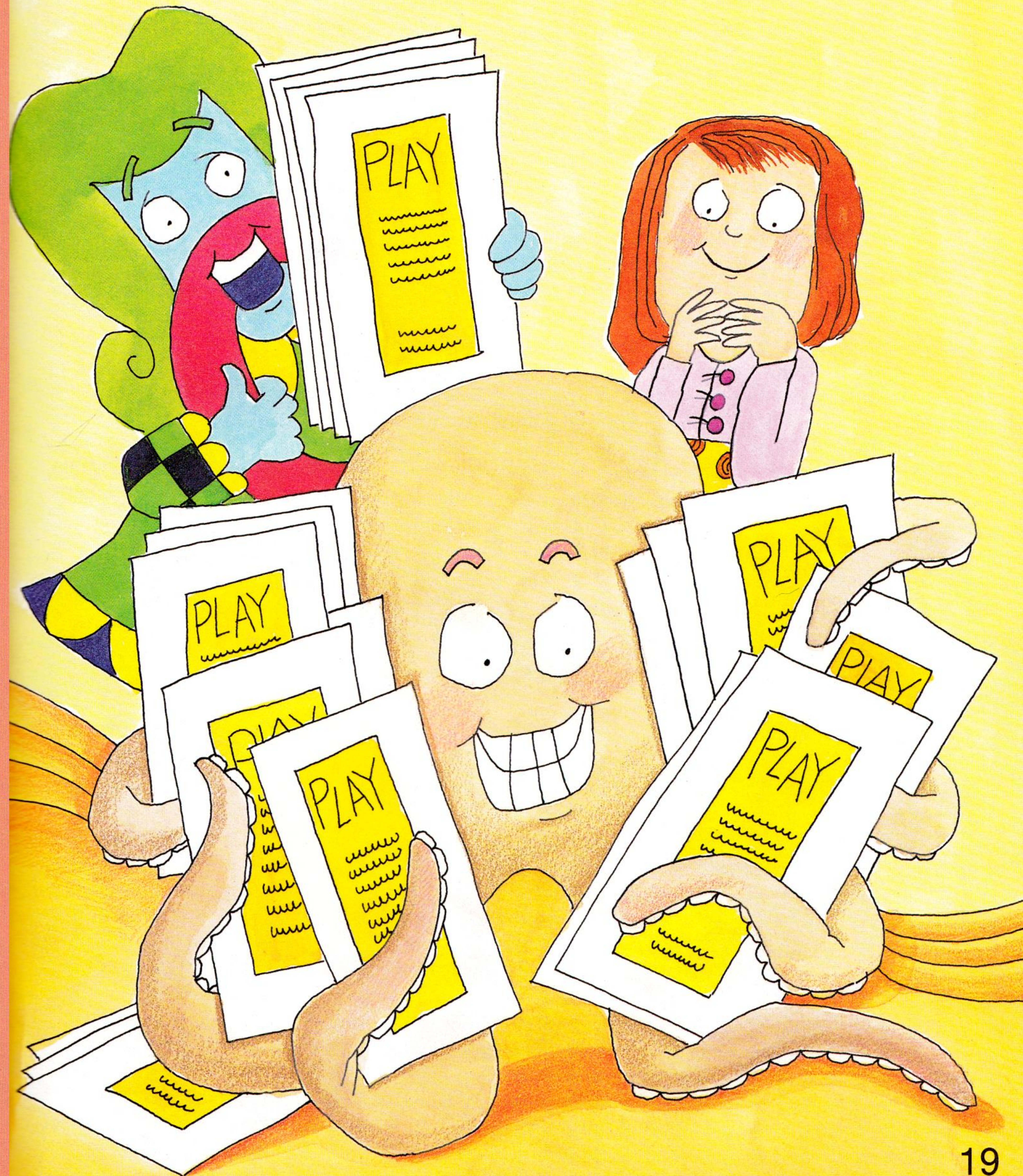
"It will not matter if we do not have loud voices," says Olive.

"But how will people know about the play?"

Olive asks.



"I had many posters printed," says Miss O.
"The posters tell all about the play.
We will put the posters everywhere
in Letter People Land."
"I'll do it," says Ollie Octopus.
"The children must learn their parts.
I can hold many posters at a time."
Ollie Octopus leaves with the posters.
"I'll be back very soon," he calls.



After a long time, Ollie Octopus returns.
He is carrying all the posters.
“Ollie, where have you been?” asks Miss O.
“This job is too difficult for me,” says Ollie Octopus.
“I cannot run fast.
I cannot reach high.
I tried, but I cannot do this job,” says Ollie Octopus.
“Be an optimist,” says Miss O.
“You can do the job if you have help.”



Ollie sits down in Olive's wagon.

"Ollie, I'll pull you in my wagon," says Olive.

"Wait! Stop pulling the wagon," says Ollie Octopus.

"Your wagon won't be fast.

And I won't be able to reach up high."

"An optimist doesn't give up," says Miss O.

"Let me think.

Who can run fast?"

"I know someone who runs very fast," says Olive.

"I'll go get him," she calls, as she races out the door.



Olive returns with Oppie Ostrich.
“Oppie Ostrich will help,” says Olive.
“He runs very fast.”
“An ostrich can run fast,” agrees Ollie Octopus,
“but he cannot hold many posters.”
“He can if you are sitting on his back,” smiles Olive.
“Olive, you are thinking the way an optimist thinks,”
says Miss O.



Miss O lifts Ollie Octopus up
onto Oppie Ostrich's back.

"But I still won't be able to reach up high,"
says Ollie Octopus.

"I'll reach for you," smiles Olive.

"You are too small," says Ollie Octopus.

"Not if I sit on you," says Olive.

Soon all the posters are hanging everywhere in
Letter People Land.



The play is a great success.

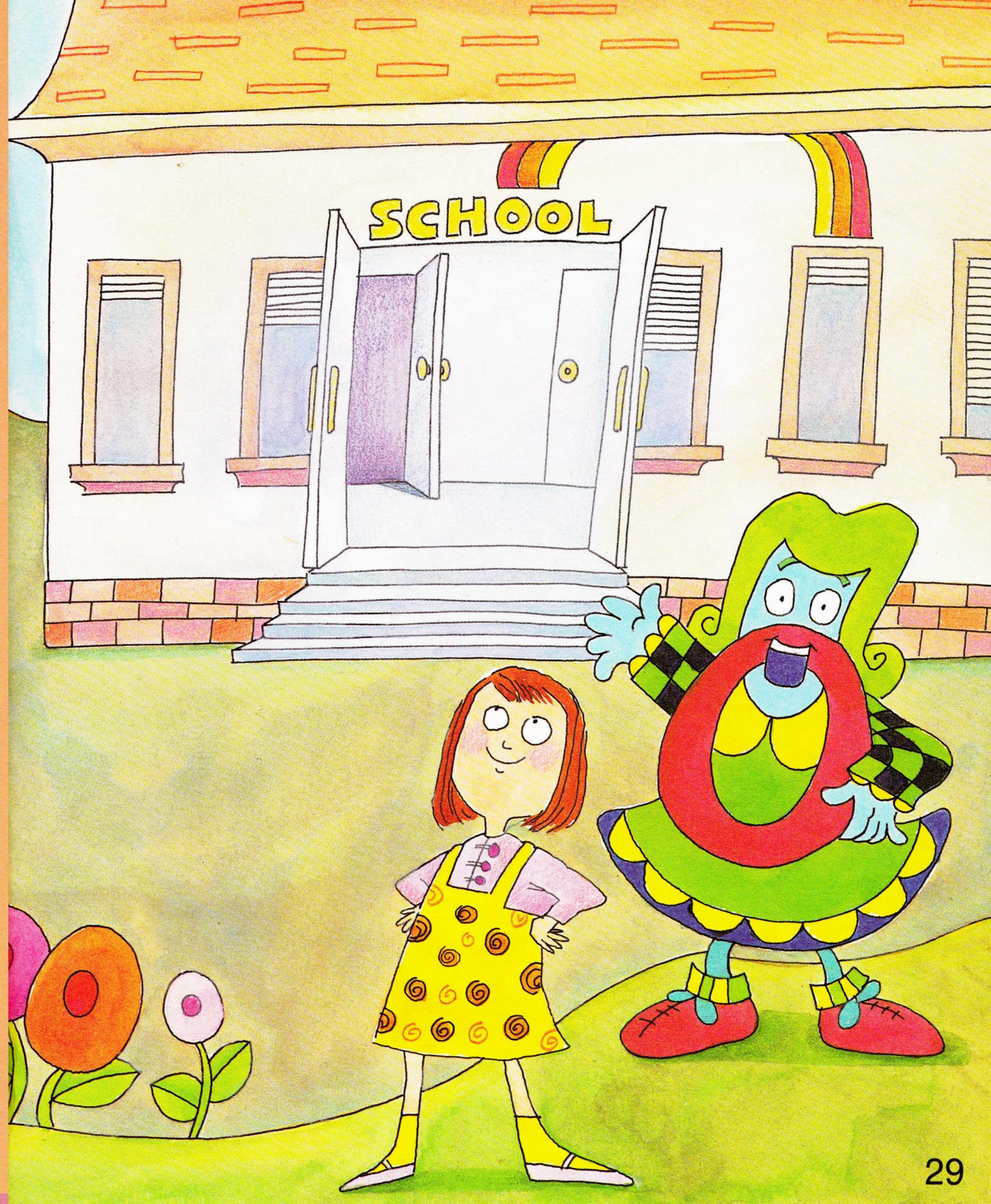
The kindergarten children help to raise money
for the new classroom.

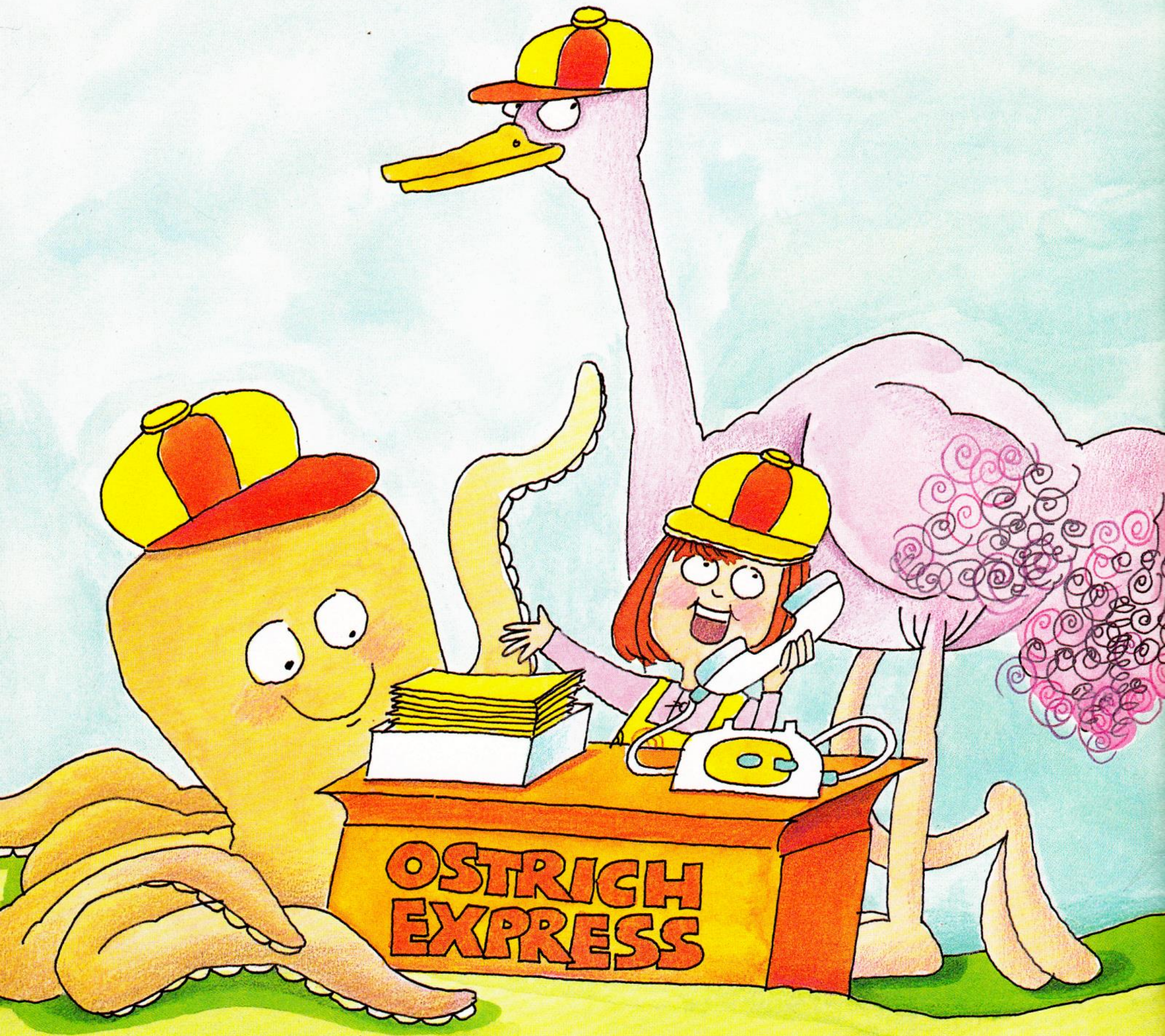
Soon they go to school in the big school building.

No one thinks Olive is too small anymore.

No one says she has to wait until she is
older to do things.

Olive has her own business.





Olive has the fastest, most unusual delivery service
in Letter People Land.
It is called

Ostrich Express.